

Disfranchisement

Fouquet (p. 2. 4) Duke de Belle Isle.

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ACCOUNT

OF THE

BIRTH, LIFE,

AND

NEGOCIATIONS

OF THE

Marechal *Belisle*.

To which is subjoin'd

A LETTER to the Author,
proving the said Marechal to
be a WOODEN HORSE, &c.

*In utrumque Paratus
Seu versare Dolos. seu certe occumbere morti.*

VIRGIL'S *ÆNEID*.

L O N D O N :

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AN
ACCOUNT

OF THE

BIRTH, LIFE,

AND

NEGOTIATIONS

OF THE

Marshall Belle.



As attested by the Author,
proving the said Marshall to
be a Wooden Horse, &c.

In witness whereof
I have signed this my true and correct
Verdict, &c.

LONDON:

Printed for James Rowland, at the Gilt
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(Part 6.)



AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Birth, Life, and Negociations
OF THE
Marechal BELISLE, &c.



THE present MARECHAL
Belisle is the Grandson of
Monsieur *Fouquet*, who in
the Youth of *Lewis* the
Fourteenth came to be first Minister of
France, by which he amassed great
Riches, and purchased the Principality of

the Island of *Belisle*; which, together with his high Manner of Living, gave Umbrage at Court, and by Degrees created him some powerful Enemies. But he was once in such high Favour, as to prevail with the King to dine at his Country-house, which stood on a Plain surrounded by open Fields without a Hedge or Tree. After Dinner, *Fouquet* took the Liberty to ask the King his Opinion where his Majesty thought Trees could be planted to the best Advantage; the King pointed to a particular Place, where if there was a Grove planted, and an Avenue of Trees from thence up to the House, it would make the Situation perfect.

Not many Days, or a very short Time afterwards, Monsieur *Fouquet* ask'd the King to dine with him again, having first at an immense Expence, caus'd

Trees

Trees in their full Verdure, with all the Earth about their Roots, to be transplanted, placed, and plentifully watered, just in the Place where his Majesty had propos'd the Grove and Avenue to be; so that it wonderfully surpris'd the King, to see in so short a Time, the naked Plain all cover'd with Trees regularly plant'd, and in their Prime.

So fickle however is Court Favour, and so rare a Thing it is, for a Man to bear the utmost Height of Prosperity and Grandeur with an equal Mind; that soon after this happen'd, on secret Information given to the King, that Monsieur *Fouquet* had been caballing with some discontented great Men, he was not only disgraced, but imprison'd, and all his great Estate confiscated, where by his Family was reduced to Necessity,

fity, and even Want: And such was the
 Apprehensions that had been conceived
 of this great Man's intriguing Spirit,
 that he was soon removed to a distant
 Castle, and denied the Use of Pen, Ink,
 Paper, and Books, and also forbid to
 converse with any but his Keepers, who
 were strictly prohibited to inform him
 of what passed abroad in the World:
 Such is the Fruit of *French* Govern-
 ment; where, without any Trial, or
 Hearing, the greatest Subjects are fre-
 quently condemn'd to a perpetual and
 most cruel Imprisonment; and yet we
 have lately had the Opportunity of obser-
 ving the Grandson of this same unhappy
 Great Man, most craftily using all prac-
 ticable Arts for introducing the like
 tyrannical Dominion into *Germany*,
 and consequently all over *Europe*; but
 to return to our Prisoner: For want
 of Reading, or any other Kind of A-
 musement,

usement, and to prevent downright Madness and Distraction, he procured a Parcel of Pins, which he flung about the Room, and employed himself in picking them up one by one, and playing at Push-pin.

After Monsieur *Fouquet* had thus remained Prisoner for above twelve Years, it happened that the Marechal *De Lauzune* having offended the King, he was sent a close Prisoner to the same Castle where *Fouquet* was ; and being under the same Restraint, they were only permitted to converse with one another. But as *Lauzune* was but Page to the King when *Fouquet* was prime Minister, he took *Lauzune* to be mad, when he told him he was a Marechal, for he shook his Head, and imagined all his Stories of Greatness to be only Ravings, believing he had rather been

been sent thither for Lunacy than Crimes of State: On the other hand *Laузune* could not but think *Fouquet* (whom he had once known to be so great a Minister) stark mad, when he gravely invited him (as to some elegant Diversion) to play at Push-pin. Which Story the Duke *De Laузune* used to tell with great Humour, when he returned to Court, and was restored to Favour: But his unhappy Companion *Fouquet* died in Prison, and his Son Monsieur *Belisse* having no Estate, went to Sea, and came gradually to rise, first, to be a Captain of a Man of War, and then Commodore of a Squadron. He married a Gentlewoman of the House of *Levie*, and left two Sons, the eldest now Marechal, and the youngest Chevalier *Belisse*.

The

The Marechal distinguished himself very early by his Address and Knowledge of Men, particularly in finding out the weak Side of those who loved Money, his own strong Inclination that Way, directed him by Sympathy to such as were governed by the like Passion for Gold, which led him to raise such a Credit on his Estate and other Ways, as gained him a sufficient Interest to be a General of Dragoons, before he was intitled in Courte to have obtained the Rank of a Colonel: And this happen'd much about the Time of the *Mississippi*, which was a charming Opportunity for exercising such an enterprising Genius as would stick at nothing; For with a steady Countenance, supported by a fixed Resolution, he commonly used to say, that from his Infancy he never blush'd at asking a Woman the Question, or offering

fering a Man a Bribe. In this famous Year he heap'd up Millions, and began building a magnificent Palace near the *Pont-royal*; for he made the most of every Thing, and got as much by the Ruin, as by the Rise of that Stock. In short, he became a perfect Master of that noble Science of Stock-jobbing, finding it much more profitable, as he us'd to say, than the Study of *Euclid*; and by conversing much with the *English*, he understood how to deal with Bulls as well as Bears, and how to get as much by a falling as by a rising Stock. He was about this Time employ'd in the King's Affairs, whereby some of the publick Money pass'd thro' his Hands, which in *France*, is a Thing not to be dallied with; but his frequent Commerce with Mr. *Laws*, and the *English*, made him forget the *Climate*, which gave wicked People
Occasion

Occasion to say, he took the same Freedom of dealing with the King's Money, as is too often done in *England*. These Surmises were the Occasion of his being taken up, and kept a considerable Time in Prison, the Building of his Palace stopp'd, and his Fortune, in the general Opinion of the World, was ruined; but as he was exceeding artful, and the Cardinal *de Fleury* coming about this Time to the Administration, he found Means to marry a Relation of the Cardinal's, and so ingratiated himself into that Prelate's Favour, that he returned to the Army, and was restored to his Rank.

Soon afterwards, he commanded some Camps of Pleasure in *Alsace*, where he introduced the *Roman* Discipline, by making the Soldiers work in Time of Peace; for he caused them to

raise Works like a fortified Citadel; then attack'd it with Trenches and Batteries, sapp'd Mines, as if it had been a real Siege, which he carried on in great Form; and notwithstanding his Benefactor the Cardinal had restored him to Mankind, and done such great Things for him, he preferr'd his Ambition to Gratitude, and the solemn Engagements he was under to his Patron; for as he was now become a Soldier of the first Rank, he long'd for War to make his Profession more considerable, altho' he well knew this to be what the Cardinal abhorr'd, since War must assuredly be his Ruin, by destroying his whole System of Government, as well as his Interest at Court.

Nevertheless, to bring this about, on the Death of *Augustus* King of *Poland*, Monsieur *Belise* availed himself of the
Queen

Queen of *France's* Tenderness for her Father, and found Means to persuade that Princess to prevail with the King her Husband, to assist *Stanislaus* in the approaching Election for that Crown, which drew on the War in the Year 1736, wherein Monsieur *Belisle* grew considerable; but poor *Stanislaus* was driven out of *Poland*, Monsieur *Broglia* lost his Breeches in *Italy*, and the Emperor both *Naples* and *Sicily*: However, the War being at last ended by a Peace, our Hero lost all his Influence at Court; for the Cardinal not only grew cold, but even became his Enemy. And when the great Catastrophy happen'd, of the Male Line of the House of *Austria* failing by the Death of the Emperor *Charles* the VIth, *France* could no longer be restrained, this being an Event which that Kingdom had long waited for; since if the
States

States belonging to the House of *Austria*, were but once divided, and the Greatness of that House reduced; no single Power could then dispute Matters with *France*; and she had little to fear from any Confederacy that could be form'd against her, because different independent Powers can rarely be brought to unite against a single powerful Prince, whose Operations and Efforts are all determined within himself, and not liable to be distracted by different Councils. Besides, *France* wanted not to make Acquisitions for herself, for to divide and weaken *Germany* was all her Aim; to attain which End, the several Courts in *Germany* must be influenced to chuse an Emperor from amongst the weakest of their Princes, who would probably want the Aid, and be subservient to the ambitious Views of *France*; and who fitter than
the

the Elector of *Bavaria*, whose Father had lost his Dominions by attempting to enslave *Germany* and himself to *Lewis* the Fourteenth ; but when this came to be talked of at *Paris*, it was generally look'd on as chimerical and ridiculous, as well as infamous, to attempt dividing the *Austrian* Dominions, just after *France* had newly guaranteed the pragmatic Sanction. This Scheme however prevailed, and Monsieur *Belisle*, with great Assurance, undertook the Task. Being plentifully supported with Money, he lost no Time, and was indefatigable in his Addresses to the several Courts of *Germany*, for he brib'd Ministers, persuaded Princes, made boldly great Promises, which he constantly broke, urged sophistical Arguments, publish'd false News, becoming all Things to all Men, purely that he might ensnare
that

that poor Country, pretending to secure the Peace of *Germany* by the Ravages of *French* Armies, and to defend Protestant Consciences by *French* Dragoons and *Jesuit* Missionaries. Some Electors were forced, others inveigled, to the Election of a *Bavarian* Emperor: The King of *Prussia* was divided from the Protestant Cause, and armed chiefly by the Arts of Monsieur *Belisle*, and to his Artifices were owing the Destruction of *Silesia* and *Bohemia*, and afterwards the abandoning of *Prussia* and the *Saxons*, tho' then the Allies of *France*; for it was the same Thing to the *French*, whether the *Germans* were destroyed by their Allies, or their Enemies. To Monsieur *Belisle* was likewise owing the Destruction of *Prague*, together with all the Blood, Slaughter, Fire, and Ruin that has wasted *Germany* ever since the Election of this Emperor

Emperor, and to his Account may also be charged, the grievous Taxes wherewith *France* has been loaded, and the immense Expence of Treasure that Kingdom has been at within these last ten Years; in all which Affairs the Marechal has been greatly assisted by the intriguing and plodding Head of his Brother the Chevalier *Belisse*, who though he wants Elocution, has no Address, and comes far short of his Brother the Marechal, for Execution, yet he is extremely knowing, is always very thoughtful, and constantly employed in forming a Variety of Schemes and Projects, for the Marechal to make use off as the Circumstance of Affairs will permit; which makes it very doubtful with some, whether these two famous Brothers, and Partners in Iniquity, did not artfully as it were, by a certain negligent Indolence, cast them-

C

selves,

selves in the Way of being detained lately at *Hanover*; and whether, their being brought Prisoners to stay any Time in *England*, can be attended with any great Emolument or Advantage to the Common Cause; for it is well known, to many still living in *England*, that most of the Errors committed by our Statesmen, in carrying on the last unlooked for, and most extraordinary Treaty of Peace, concluded at *Utrecht*, was greatly owing to the Arts of the Marechal *Tallard*, during his Residence as a Prisoner in this Kingdom.

To the Author of the foregoing Piece.

S I R,

ON perusing the little Manuscript you sent me, of the Life of the Marechal *Belisfe*, it struck me immediately, that somewhere amongst the old *Greek* and *Latin* Poets, I had met with a Character which bore an exact Resemblance of your Hero, and at last I found it in *Virgil*. And altho' I am sensible, it is given but to few to penetrate into the Sense and Meaning of Authors, and that our cold and heavy Imaginations, cannot like *Bentley*, fathom the Depths of the divine Antients, and find more Meaning than they themselves ever knew: tho' I say, such Penetration is beyond my

Sphere, and that I neither do pretend to have the searching Knowledge of the subtil Doctor *Aquinas*, yet, it is obvious even to my low Understanding, from the second Book of the *Æneid*, that the Marechal *Belisse*, is actually a *Wooden Horse*, and that the divine *Virgil* could mean nothing else by *Troy Town*, but the *German Empire*; and altho' I have the utmost Deference for my learned Brother Mr. *Wagstaff*, with great Submission, I cannot admit of his Argument, by which he very learnedly strives to prove, that *Troy Town* means the City of *London*: At the same Time I grant, that his laborious Quotations, out off *Jeoffry* of *Monmouth*, and other authentic Authors, sufficiently prove that *Troynovant* was *Trynobantum*, and that *Trynobantum* is *London*. But as for the Argument by which he pretends to prove

prove, that the Marechal *Belisse* was the *Wooden Horse* brought into *London*, I throw them behind me, like Chaff before the Wind, to use the Expression of a noble Lord,

*Who had the Honour to live near the Gate,
Where a hundred wise Heads, met in wise Debate.*

Those Heads, Sir, such as they are, could defend the Town of *London* against forty such Wooden Horses, nay, against an Hundred of them.

From the Wisdom therefore, of the Heads aforesaid, I intirely refute all the Minors and Conclusions, in that learn'd String of my worthy Friend Mr. *Wagstaff's*; but cannot avoid joining to defend that Part of his Hypothesis, which plainly proves Marechal *Belisse* to be a *Wooden Horse*; In Order to which, let us see what the divine *Virgil*,

gil, from his own Words means by a
Wooden Horse ;

Fracti Bello, fatisque Repulsi,

*Ductores Danaum, tot jam labentibus
annis*

*Instar Montis equum, divina Palladis
arte,*

Ædificant.

Which I shall paraphrase, for the Bene-
fit of such as cannot read *Latin*, and
leave the Judgment of the Truth of
my Explication to those that can.

The Leaders of the *Grecians*, (In-
nuendo) the *French* King, and his Mi-
nisters, after many Years, in vain at-
tempting universal Monarchy, being re-
pulsed by Fate, (Innuendo) God's Pro-
vidence, in Defence of a Protestant Na-
tion, and broken by War, (Innuendo)
The Battles of *Hochsted*, *Ramilies*,
Turin, *Lisle*, *Oudenard*, &c. They,
the

the *French*, resolved to build a great Wooden Horse, as big as a Mountain, by the Help of *Pallas*, (*Innuendo*) an Ambassador, to be sent into *Germany*, whom they blew up with Pride, by making him a Marechal of *France*, and giving him the blue Ribband: Now though I may support these *Innuendo's* by Common Law, I do not think I am obliged to do it by Reason, well knowing before-hand, that all the Objections which can be made to them are trifling; for who can deny, that the *French* were repulsed by the Providence of God, and well beaten as above, many Years ago! Also the *French* themselves cannot but own, that the Marechal *Belisle* has been blown up to a Mountain of Pride, and that an Ambassador may be made of Wood, is not to be disputed; for have there not been wooden *Jupiters*, wooden Kings,

Kings, and why not wooden Ambassadors? It is true, *ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius*; but that proves that Mercury may be made of some Wood: Now if Mercury, who was a very busy negotiating Heathen God, a great Lye, a Giver of Bribes, and an artful Taker of all he could catch, might be made of Wood, why may not the Marechal Belisse be made of the same Stuff; the only remaining Difficulty then is to prove, that by the *Ductores Danaum*, was meant the King, and the chief Leaders of the French, which it must be owned requires great Erudition, and is necessary to be settled for the better Understanding the whole.

First, it is evident that Gaul, and France, are the same. And that the Gauls used the Grecian Letters, *plerumque Græcis literis utuntur*, says

Cæsar,

Cæsar ; and, surely, they wrote in no Letters but their own. To save Repetition, however, this single Expression in *Juvenal*, viz. *Græculus esuriens ad Cælum jufferis ibit*, is a complete Picture of the half starved *Frenchmen*, that are daily coming over to *England*; such as Cooks, Tutors, Dancing-masters, Taylors, Barbers, &c.

Thus having established the foregoing *Innuendoes*, I shall proceed to confirm ; proving the *Marechal Bellisle* to be the *Wooden Horse*, above mentioned.

Huc delecta virum sortiti corpora fur-
tim:

This very plainly shews the Manner wherein this *Wooden-Horse-Ambassador* was fitted out, for the great Purpose of destroying *Troy-Town*, (*Innuendo*) the *German Empire*.

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The

The very Words of our Author say,
 They chose the Bodies of Heroes by
 Theft, and shut them into the Hollow
 of the Horse: (*Innuendo*.) They gave
 the Marechal Heroick Instructions,
 which the French Council could only
 procure by Stealth, having none of their
 own: And they filled the Womb of the
 Wooden Horse with armed Soldiers, (*In-*
nuendo;) the Pockets of the Marechal
 with *Louis-d'Ors*.

Now, if any one inclines to dispute
 these *Innuendoes*, let it only be consi-
 dered, how plain it is, That nothing
 else can be meant by *Delecta corpora*
virum, but Heroick Instructions. For,
 as *Vir* undoubtedly signifies a Man,
Delecta corpora must determine it to be
 an Hero. But every Body knows, there
 never yet was a French Hero in Germa-
 ny; as plainly appears by their ruinous
 and

and hasty Retreat from thence: Wherefore this Expression can only mean Heroick Instructions, agreeable to the above Innuendo.

It is in like Manner very plain, that *Uterum complent* can mean nothing else but filling his Pockets, *Armato Milite*, with *Louis-d'Ors*. For, what can express a Pocket, and a deep Pocket too, better, than the Word *Uterum*? A Pocket, as we may say, that has no Bottom; which may be of most singular Use, in soothing and persuading German Princes. For, this Pocket was filled: With what? Why! *Louis-d'Ors*; that is, Armed Men; who were felt to be *Prussians, Hessians, Bevarians, &c.* And it was to no Purpose, that some of the wiser Germans cried out:

Aut hæc in Nostros fabricata est Machina muros

*Inspectura domos, venturaque desuper
urbi,*

*Aut aliquis latet Error. Equo ne cre-
diti ! Teucris.*

They said, " This Machine, (*Innuen-
do*) this Embassador, is coming to
" destroy our Walls, inspect our States,
" and ruin our Cities. Oh, *Teucris* !
" (*Inundo, Germans !*) Trust not this
" *Wooden Horse*." Yet, notwithstand-
ing this wise Advice, the *Germans* re-
ceived this *Wooden Horse*, with his Belly
full of *Louis-d'Ors* ; they chose an Em-
peror for him : And he destroyed the
great City of *Prague*, and laid waste
Germany with Fire and Sword.

The great Justice and Tenderness,
however, with which the Injured Queen
of *Hungary* had, all along, treated her
Subjects, raised such a Spirit of Loyal-
ty, Concord, and Unanimity amongst
them,

them, that, under the Command of the Brave Prince CHARLES of Lorrain, these Outrages were suddenly chequed, and the Enemy not only driven out of Germany; but, by the steady Conduct and Bravery of this young Hero, successfully pursued into the Frontiers of their own Dominions: And most happy for all Europe would the Issue have been, had not the *Armato Milite*, as above contained, in the Belly of the *Wooden Horse*, been seasonably applied, to sooth the Ambition of a certain Prince, who has evidently preferred a false Glory to the real and true Interest of his Country.

But, at this critical Juncture of Time, that over-ruling Providence, which ever guards the Righteous, so opened the Eyes of the German Princes, and gave such an unexpected Turn to those monstrously

stirring ambitious Projects, that, from the fruitless Effects of War, the *Grecians*, (*Innuendo*) the *French*, have been again reduced to depend on the *Wooden Horse*, (*Innuendo*) the *Marechal Bellise*, and his Artifices, in order to carry on their Schemes.

Yet, God be praised! the *Wooden Horse* is at last seized; and, as it is reported, will be brought into *England*, where, it is hoped, he will be exposed to open View, for a Penny a Piece: And, if it should so happen, I most sincerely wish, that what, as *Virgil* says, the wise *Capys* advised, may be executed by the judicious People of this Nation:
viz.

*At Capys & quorum melior sententia
menti,*

*Aut Pelago Danaum insidias suspecta-
que dona.*

Pre-

(31)

*Precipitare jubet, subjectisque urere
flammis,
Aut terebrare cavas uteri, & tentare
latebras.*

I shall conclude with submitting it to the Unprejudiced, who shall happen to read your Narrative of the Marechal Bellisle's Story, Whether this same *Wooden Horse* ought not to be destroyed, and the good People of this Island preserved from the Danger of Tyranny and Oppression? I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c.

(15)

Travellers, and the
the various countries of the
the world.

It is a circumstance with reference to
to the United States, who shall happen
to read your Narrative of the Marquis
de Lafayette's Story, whether this
Noble Hero ought not to be destroyed,
and the good People of this Island pro-
fessed from the time of his arrival, and



212

